

# CONVEYOR SAFETY TIPS

## for Laborers

Card No. ST 14

U.S. Department of Labor  
Mine Safety and Health Administration  
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Laborers are exposed to more conveyor hazards than most mine employees and are involved in more accidents.

### Conveyors can be Deadly

Between 1990 and 1997, conveyors were involved in 40 mining deaths, injuring more laborers than any other work group. Six laborers died and 29 were permanently disabled as a result of conveyor accidents. You can help yourself work safer and live longer. When near this machinery, watch for conveyor hazards and work safely.

Conveyors can grab you  
...don't get caught up.

### Working smart

- **Lock out** the conveyor power switch and **tag it** before you work on that conveyor.
- **Align the belt** from a safe place and only after you're sure the conveyor can't grab you.
- **Return idlers** look safe, but they can hurt you. Never try to fix or adjust them while the conveyor is running.
- Conveyor **stop cords** are for your safety. Check them periodically to make sure they actually work.
- Use a **harness or safety belt and line** when working where you can fall from a conveyor.
- A **clean walkway** means a safer walk. Keep conveyor walkways clear. Cross conveyors only at crossovers.

### Safe maintenance

- If the belt is in motion, **don't manually apply belt dressing**. Only pressurized dressings can be put on while the conveyor is running.
- **Don't clean running conveyor pulleys.**
- **Don't use a shovel, hoe, or other hand tool** to clean material buildup from a belt that's running.
- **Don't try to dislodge rocks** from pulleys while the conveyor is running.

If you have any questions about any mine health and safety matter, please contact your local MSHA office or visit the MSHA home page at [www.msha.gov](http://www.msha.gov) (1998)